



# FEASIBILITY OF A ONE-WAY TRAFFIC SYSTEM FOR COLOMBO CITY



This thesis was submitted to the Department of Civil Engineering University of Moratuwa in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Engineering.

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## DECLARATION

The work included in this thesis is part or whole, has not been submitted for any other academic qualification at any institution.



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U.L. Tissa

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## **ABSTRACT**

Traffic management in main cities has become an absolute need due to the increase in the number of vehicles in the limited road space, at present. There are numerous limitations that restrict the widening of roads to cater to the demand of the ever-increasing vehicular load in an already congested city such as Colombo. The question is how are we going to differentiate between the benefit and the cost of development. It is very important to look for cost effective methods by minimizing the adverse effects on the economy in a developing country like Sri Lanka.

The objective of this research was to check the suitability of a One-way traffic system in a selected area of the Colombo City. The most congested areas, which could be expanded later, depending on the results obtained, have been selected first. The study area was confined to Northern and Southern banks of Beira Lake in Colombo Fort area. Computer software developed by Transportation Engineering Division, Department of Civil Engineering of University of Moratuwa called 'Transplan' was used for the analysis of data. This is still in the developing stage, but has been observed to have been used accurately by comparing actual data at the site. However, 'Transplan' has greatly reduced the amount of time required for calculation. There are other researches that are being carried out to study the suitability of Bus Lanes and Light Rail Transit (LRT), both of which require additional road space in the existing road network. This requirement could be met with a One-way traffic system, which increases the capacity in those road links. Traffic management measures such as integrated signalling systems, tidal flow operation etc, also have to be implemented in parallel with a one-way traffic system to have optimum benefits. Any of the above researches accrues benefits to the transport sector development resulting in large economic gains to the country, indeed.

However, it is high time we explored the feasibility of implementing accurate traffic management systems that can relieve the congestion level in busy business cities. One-way traffic systems are operating in most developed countries quite effectively at present.

Very soon, we will have to select a One-way traffic system as a traffic management option in the Colombo City, as it is the most convenient alternative in the prevailing situation.



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# **CONTENTS**

	PAGE
Abstract	i
Acknowledgment	iii
Contents	iv
List of Figures	vi
List of Tables	vii
List of Abbreviations	viii
 Chapter 1 - INTRODUCTION	 01
 Chapter 2 - PRESENT SITUATION OF THE ROAD SYSTEM	 04
2.1 Existing road network in the city	04
2.2 Selection of area	06
2.3 Methodology of Network Identification	07
 Chapter 3 - THEORY RELATED TO ONE-WAY TRAFFIC	 10
3.1 One-way and Tidal Flow Operations	10
3.2 Properties of a One-way traffic system	12
3.3 Effect at intersections	15
 Chapter 4 - METHODOLOGY	 18
4.1 One-way Loops in Selected Area	18
4.2 Data Collection	19
4.2.1 Traffic Data Collection	20
4.2.2 Road Sectional Properties	20
4.2.3 Socio Economic Data Collection	23
4.2.4 Other Data	24
4.3 Procedure for Analysis	24
 Chapter 5 - DATA ANALYSIS	 27
5.1 One-way Road Network	27
5.2 Calculations Using Transplan	29
5.3 Comparison of a Two way and a One-way system	30

5.4	Vehicle Kilometres and Hours Savings (One-way against Two-way)	30
5.4.1	Individual Combinations	30
5.4.2	Cumulative Combinations	35
5.5	Change of increased daily Vehicle Volumes	38
5.6	Optimum Loop Combinations	42
5.7	Improvements to LOS in Selected area for One-way	46
5.8	Further LOS improvements by adopting civil cost	49
5.9	Improvements to Intersections and Junctions of one-way system	54
Chapter 6 - ECONOMIC COST AND BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT		59
6.1	Cost Component of the Project	59
6.2	Benefit Calculations	61
6.2.1	Savings in Travel Time	61
6.2.1.1	Passenger Travel Time Savings	62
6.2.1.2	Travel Time Savings to Freight Consignees	64
6.2.2	Savings in Fuel	68
6.2.3	Savings in Emissions	70
6.2.4	Vehicle Operating Cost Savings	72
6.2.5	Accident Cost Savings	73
Chapter 7 - ECONOMIC APPRAISAL OF THE PROJECT		78
7.1	Net Present Value of benefits	78
7.2	Net Benefits	79
7.3	Benefit Cost Ratio	80
7.4	Economic Internal Rate of Return	80
Chapter 7 - CONCLUSION		82

## REFERENCES

## APPENDIXES

Appendix I – One-way Roads and their Direction of flow

Appendix II – Priority Basis Loop Combinations

Appendix III- Improvements to LOS by improved Road Sectional Elements

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

	<b>Page</b>
Fig. 2.1 Non availability of Pedestrian facilities in most of our roads	05
Fig.2.2 Obstructions to Pedestrian flow in Fort Area	07
Fig.2.3 Area Selected for One-way Loops	09
Fig. 3.1 Tidal Flow Operation	11
Fig. 3.2 Under utilized Lanes in opposite direction to peak flow	12
Fig. 3.3 Conflicts at Intersections having a different combinations of Movements	16
Fig. 3.4 Present Congestion Level at Signalized Intersections	17
Fig. 4.1 Road Link Properties in Data Base	21
Fig. 4.2 Node Properties at Junctions in Data Base	22
Fig. 4.3 Socio Economic Data Base	23
Fig. 4.4 Network Statistic Output Data	25
Fig. 5.1 Selected One-way Road Network in CMC	28
Fig. 5.2 Excess Travel Length due to One-way	34
Fig. 5.3 Improved LOS in Road links due to Introduction of One-way	47
Fig. 5.4 Improved LOS in Link Kilometres due to Introduction of One-way	48
Fig. 5.5 Highly Congested Land Use besides a main road at Maradana	50
Fig. 5.6 Improved number of Road links in LOS, further improvement to road cross sectional properties	52
Fig. 5.7 Improved number of links Kilometers in LOS, further improvement to road cross sectional properties	53



## **LIST OF TABLES**

	<b>Page</b>
Table 3.1 Advantages and Disadvantages of One-way Streets	14
Table 5.1 Matrix of Vehicle Kilometre Savings (One-way against Two-way)	31
Table 5.2 Matrix of Vehicle Hour Savings (One-way against Two-way)	32
Table 5.3 Matrix of Vehicle Kilometre Savings of Cumulative Combinations	36
Table 5.4 Matrix of Vehicle Hour Savings of Cumulative Combinations	36
Table 5.5 Matrix for Change of Traffic Volumes	40
Table 5.6 Summery of Savings for Different Combinations	43
Table 5.7 Accuracy Check with Actual Traffic survey Data	46
Table 6.1 General Summary of Civil Cost per Kilometre of the Project	60
Table 6.2 VOT Savings for Passenger	62
Table 6.3 Distribution of Commodities in Road Transport	66
Table 6.4 Value of Freight Transport Savings	67
Table 6.5 Calculation of Savings in Fuel Consumption	69
Table 6.6 Calculation of Emission Cost Savings	71
Table 6.7 Calculation of Savings in Vehicle Operating Costs	73
Table 6.8 Accident Cost Savings	75
Table 7.1 Calculation of Net Present Value of Benefits	79

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AADT	-	Average Annual Daily Traffic
B/C	-	Benefit Cost Ratio
BOQ	-	Bill of Quantities
CMC	-	Colombo Municipal Council
CNSA	-	Cumulative Number of Standard Axles
CRWB	-	Colombo Ratnapura Wellawaya Batticaloa
DBST	-	Double Bitumen Surface Treatment
EIRR	-	Economic Internal Rate of Return
LOS	-	Level of Service
LRT	-	Light Rail Transit
Mw	-	Mawatha
NPV	-	Net Present Value
USA	-	United States of America
V/C	-	Volume to Capacity Ratio
VOC	-	Vehicle Operating Cost
VOT	-	Value of Time